



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

DALLAS AREA RESIDENTS INDICTED ON FEDERAL CHARGES FOR SELLING FRAUDULENT IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS

DALLAS—A federal indictment on six Dallas residents was unsealed today by U.S. Attorney Richard B. Roper, Northern District of Texas, with charges related to selling fraudulent identification documents, which were uncovered following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Esmeralda Vidal, aka Esmeralda Cavello, Maria Guadalupe Luna, and Lupe Luna, “Lupe”; Emily Young, Jackie Cavello Rodriguez, Robertine Gonzales, aka “Tina”; Rosa Jaimez Martinez, aka “Maria”; and John Gilbert Cavello were all charged with one count of conspiracy to transfer false identification documents, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028.

Esmeralda Vidal was also charged with three counts of illegally transferring false identification documents. ICE special agents arrested Vidal, Young, Rodriguez, Martinez and Cavello March 3. Gonzales remains a fugitive. Vidal, Young, Rodriguez, Martinez and Cavello have been released on personal recognizance bonds and are scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday at 9 a.m. before the Honorable Paul D. Stickney, United States Magistrate Judge.

According to the indictment, beginning in November 2004, the defendants conspired to sell false identification documents, including birth certificates, Social Security cards, Texas drivers’ licenses and passports to illegal aliens and others for their use or the use of their family members and friends who were illegal aliens. Vidal directed the operation and she, along with Emily Young, solicited potential buyers directly or by word of mouth. Potential buyers were promised authentic identification documents and were typically required to pay in advance.

The indictment alleges that most of the activity, including the offers to sell the documents, the receipt of the moneys for the documents, and the delivery of some of the documents, took place at 202 W. Cherry, Duncanville, Texas, believed to be the residence of one or more of the defendants. In many instances, however, moneys were paid but no documents were actually delivered and those that were delivered were false.

According to the indictment, from Nov. 5 through Nov. 30, 2004, Vidal, Young, and Rodriguez, either singly or jointly, received more than \$30,000 from various persons for Social Security cards and/or birth certificates.

"Anyone who distributes fraudulent identity documents is potentially threatening the security of this nation," said Kenneth W. Cates, special agent-in-charge of the Dallas Office of Investigations in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). "Our ICE special agents will do everything possible to identify, investigate and promote prosecuting these document vendors who haphazardly and carelessly put us all in danger," Cates continued.

An indictment is an accusation by a federal grand jury and a defendant is entitled to the presumption of innocence unless proven guilty.

U.S. Attorney Roper praised the investigative efforts of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Sarah Saldaña is prosecuting the case.

#ICE#

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities